Quantity of Gold coming into the Country

*226. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold that has come to the country so far after Government began allowing bringing of 5 Kg. of gold by expatriates since 1992;

(b) whether the ceilling on the quantum of gold allowed to be brought-in has been enhanced and what is the ceiling now;

(c) how much gold has come to the country under special import licence;

(d) how much gold has come through NIR route so far; and

(e) whether Government are considering to adopt open door policy for gold import?;

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) 900.917 tonnes of gold has been imported upto 28.2.97 since the Government introduced the scheme of allowing non Resident Indians to bring 5 Kg. of gold each on payment of duty.

(b) Yes Sir. The ceiling has been enhanced to 10 Kg. w.e.f. 1.1.97.

(c) 83.054 tonnes of gold has been imported under Special Import Licence Scheme upto 28.2.97.

(d) 900.917 tonnes of gold has been imported through NRI route upto 28.2.97.

(e) The existing scheme of import of gold by Non Resident Indians under Notification No. 117/92-Cus dated 1.3.92 and 171/94 dated 30.9.94 as amended, is open to all Non Resident Indians who have stayed abroad for more than six months. Similarly, the import under Special Import Licence Scheme is open to all importers. Government is presently not considering any other scheme for import of gold.

Scheme for Waste Management in Hospitals

*227. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 374 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 1997 and state:

(a) the details of the scheme to deal with different kinds of wastes in private hospitals, nursing homes and Government hospitals;

(b) whether the guidelines have been made mandatory for all State hospitals; if so, the progress in different States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) the Supreme Court of India had directed the concerned authorities in Delhi to install incinerators or adopt other alternatives for the safe disposal of hospital waste in all nursing homes/Hospitals having more than 50 beds. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has developed guidelines for the management of hospital waste and standards for incinerators. The guidelines drawn up by the CPCB have been made available to all State Government/U.Ts. on 07th March, 1997.

2. The subject of Hospital Waste Management was discussed in details during the last meeting of the Central Council of Health & Family Welfare where all State Health Ministers attended from 08th to 10th January, 1997. The Council adopted a Resolution which *inter-alia,* enjoined all hospitals in the country, whether in the Government sector or private sector, to initiate an appropriate hospital waste management system and to address issues relating to emission standards, creation of awareness, motivation of staff, the need to draw up detailed specifications, training and protection of workers.

3. The Draft Bio-medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1995

had also been notified on 25th April, 1995 which *inter-alia* require hospital waste to be disposed off in an environmentally sound manner. The Rules have yet to be notified as the opinion/objections from the public and concerned agencies have been sought.

Project Proposal by State Government for Revamping Secondary Health System in Orissa

*228. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa has submitted a project proposal for revamping secondary health system in that State;

(b) whether the Central Government has forwarded that project proposal to the World Bank for assistance;

(c) if so, the action taken by the World Bank in the matter;

(d) the funds likely to be obtained from the World Bank for implementing these projects in Orissa; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The State Projects are developed through detailed discussion with the World Bank and past experience has shown that they take from 12 to 24 months to fructify, depending on the time taken on the design and formulation of the project by the State. The State authorities have been kept fully involved in the discussions with the Bank's representatives at each stage but it is not possible to comment on the final dimension of the project at this juncture.

शीघ्र न्याय उपलब्ध कराया जाना

*229. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) जनता को सुलभ, सस्ता और शीघ्र न्याय उपलब्ध करवाने के संबंध में सरकार की क्या योजना है;

(ख) देश के विभिन्न उच्च न्यायालयों और उच्चतम न्यायालय में इस समय लम्बित पड़े मामलों की राज्य-वार संख्या क्या है और वहां न्यायाधीशों के कितने पद रिक्त पड़े हैं; और

(ग) न्यायिक प्रक्रिया में विलम्ब को दूर करने तथा मुकदमा दायर करने वालों की शिकायतों का निवारण करने हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गये हैं?

विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमाकान्त डी० खलप): (क) न्याय को त्वरित और कम खर्चीला बनाने के निरंतर प्रयास की दिशा में सरकार, न्यायिक प्रक्रियाओं को और सरल बनाने, न्यायालयों और न्यायिक पदों की संख्या में वृद्धि करने, न्यायालय भवनों और निवास सुविधाओं के निर्माण के लिए अतिरिक्त निधि का उपबंध करके न्याय प्रदान करने संबंधी अवसंरचना को मजबूत बनाने, लोक अदालतों, न्याय पंचायतों और अन्य विकल्प तथा विवाद समाधान की स्थानीय समुचित पद्धतियों को अंगीकृत करने का आशय रखती है।

(ख) उच्चतम न्यायालय और उच्च न्यायालयों में लम्बित मामलों और रिक्त पदों को दर्शित करने वाली एक सारणी विवरण रूप में सदन के पटल पर रख दी गई है। (नीचे देखिए)

(ग) समय-समय पर प्रक्रिया संबंधी विधियों को संशोधित करने के अतिरिक्त, सरकार ने विधि आयोग जैसे विशेषज्ञ निकायों की सलाह और सिफारिशों के आधार पर प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाने तथा मामलों को शीघ्र निपटाने के लिए अनेक उपाय किए हैं। विधि मंत्रियों, मुख्य न्यायमूर्तियों तथा न्याय प्रशासन से संबद्ध अन्य व्यक्तियों के सम्मेलन, कालिक रूप से आयोजित किए जाते हैं और ऐसे विचार विनिमय तथा परामर्शों से उद्भूत सिफारिशों और निष्कर्षों को कार्यान्वित किया जाता है और उनकी प्रगति को निकट से मानीटर किया जाता है।